

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

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Serial No.: Unassigned

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: METHOD FOR SURFACE POLISHING OF  
AN OPTICAL ARTICLE USING A SOLVENT  
OR A MIXTURE OF SOLVENTS

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants respectfully submit this Preliminary Amendment in the above-referenced case.

Consideration of this case in view of the amendments made herein is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 1, line 3, please insert the following paragraph:

**--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

This application is a continuation of PCT Application No. PCT/FR00/02224 filed 2 August 2000, which claims priority to French Application No. 99/10230 filed 6 August 1999.--

At page 1, line 4, please insert the following heading:

**--1. Field of the Invention--**

At page 1, line 7, please insert the following heading:

**--2. Description of Related Art--**

At page 2, line 22, please insert the following heading:

**--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--**

At page 5, line 15, please insert the following heading:

**--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--**

At page 7, line 20, please insert the following heading:

**--DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS--**

Please add the following Abstract immediately following page 16:

**--ABSTRACT**

The invention concerns a method comprising the steps of grinding, fine grinding, and polishing a surface of an optical article made of transparent thermoplastic material, one of the steps of fine grinding or polishing consisting of treating the surface with a solvent or a mixture of solvents. The invention is applicable to lenses for spectacles.--

A new page 17 containing the Abstract is attached hereto as Appendix A.

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-16, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 17-34 as follows:

--18. (New) A method of surface polishing of at least one principal surface of an optical article made from transparent thermoplastic material comprising:

grinding;

fine grinding; and

polishing;

wherein the fine grinding and/or the polishing comprises attacking the principal surface of the article with a solvent or a mixture of organic solvents of the transparent thermoplastic material.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein polishing comprises attacking the principal surface of the article with a solvent or a mixture of organic solvents of the transparent thermoplastic material.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the attacking comprises centrifugation of the solvent or mixture of solvents on the principal surface of the article.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the attacking is further defined as comprising a radial disposition of the solvent or mixture of solvents on the principal surface.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the radial deposition takes place from the center to the edge of the article.

23. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the attacking is performed by contacting the principal surface with a vapor of the solvent or mixture of solvents.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the vapor is produced by heating the solvent or mixture of solvents.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the solvent or mixture of solvents is heated to its boiling point.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the optical article is heated to a temperature lower than the boiling point of the solvent or mixture of solvents.
27. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the contacting of the principal surface with the vapor of the solvent or mixture of solvents comprises saturation with the vapor of the solvent or mixture of solvents.
28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the solvent vapor is at ambient temperature.
29. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein attacking comprises both an attacking by centrifugation and an attacking with a vapor phase.
30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the attacking by centrifugation occurs before the attacking with a vapor phase.
31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the attacking by centrifugation follows the attacking with the vapor phase.
32. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of dichloromethane, the dichloroethanes, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, trichloromethane, THF and dioxane.
33. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the transparent thermoplastic material is polycarbonate.
34. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the optical article is further defined as a spectacle lens.--

**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to include the proper headings, to recite the priority data, to add an Abstract, to cancel claims 1-16 of the PCT application, and to add new claims 17-34. Support for the new claims is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. The filing fee has been calculated after amendment of the claims by the preliminary amendment. For the convenience of the Examiner, a clean set of the pending claims is attached hereto as Appendix B.

Should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/10201125/MBW.

Respectfully submitted,



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